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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION - JANUARY 1, 1935

The number of cattle on feed for market in the Corn Belt States on January 1, 1935 was 46 percent smaller than the number on feed a year earlier according to the cattle on feed estimate prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is much the largest decrease from the previous year shown in the 13 years for which similar estimates have been made. The number of cattle on feed January 1 this year is the smallest in many years.

There were wide variations among the States in the percentage change from a year earlier, these ranging from decreases of 80 and 65 percent, respectively, in Kansas and Missouri to increases of 5 and 15 percent, respectively, in Ohio and Indiana. For the States east of the Mississippi River, as a whole, there was a decrease of 7 percent, while for the States west of that river the decrease was 57 percent.

The number of cattle on feed in the 11 Western States on January 1 this year was estimated as 16 percent smaller than a year earlier, with decreases in nearly all of the States. In Texas and Oklahoma the total number on feed this year is only about one-half as large as a year ago.

Reports from Corn Belt feeders as to the average weight of cattle put on feed this year indicated a decrease from last year in the proportion of heavy weights (1000 lbs. and up), an increase in the proportion of medium weights (750-1000 lbs.) and a decrease in light weight steers and calves. Records of shipments from four leading markets for the last 6 months of 1934 however show a decrease in the proportion of medium weights and an increase in the proportion of light weights, when compared with a year earlier. This difference would seem to indicate that a much larger proportion of light weight cattle shipped in this year were not put on feed but are being roughed through the winter.

The number of stocker and feeder cattle, inspected through stockyards markets, shipped into the Corn Belt from July 1 to December 31 as reported was about 5 percent smaller this year than the small number of a year earlier. The number this year, however, includes an unknown number of cattle purchased by the Government in drought areas and shipped into some of these States for pasture and local relief slaughter. There was a marked decrease this year in the intra-state movement of feeder cattle, not going through stockyards, in the Corn Belt States west of the Missouri River.

The estimated number of cattle on feed January 1, 1935 as a percent of January 1, 1934 for the different Corn Belt States is as follows:

Ohio	105 percent	Iowa	80 percent
Indiana	115 "	Missouri	35 "
Illinois	85 "	So. Dakota	70 "
Michigan	85 "	Nebraska	40 "
Wisconsin	88 "	Kansas	20 "
Minnesota	80 "		

Corn Belt (weighted) 54.0 percent.

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